

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

February 2008

Regents Name Dr. Sally Clausen Next Commissioner of Higher Education

The Board of Regents officially named University of Louisiana President Dr. Sally Clausen as the state's next Commissioner of Higher Education. Dr. Clausen will succeed outgoing commissioner Dr. Joseph Savoie, who will assume the presidency of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette later this year. The board made its unanimous decision during its regular monthly meeting held at McNeese State University in Lake Charles.

"We as a board are convinced that we have selected the person who best exemplifies the personal qualities and professional credentials necessary to be effective in this position from the very first day on the job," said Board of Regents Chair Pat Strong. "Dr. Clausen is a highly-competent, nationally-recognized, proven educational leader. She is also universally respected among legislators. As such, she is uniquely qualified to help us maintain the educational momentum that [outgoing commissioner] Dr. Savoie has overseen during his tenure. We look forward to working with her to make Louisiana's public colleges and universities the best they can be."

"I am honored that the Board of Regents has placed their confidence in me to lead Louisiana public higher education into a future that will demand excellence at every level from our colleges and universities," Dr. Clausen said. "My focus will be to continue progress in the areas of workforce development, accountability, and expanding student access and success."

The Board's decision paves the way for the Board of Regents to enter into final employment negotiations with Dr. Clausen. Details of the appointment, including salary and a timetable for Dr. Clausen's transition into the job, are not yet finalized.



University of Louisiana System President Dr. Sally Clausen responds to questions from the Board of Regents at the Board's February meeting. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Clausen as the next Commissioner of Higher Education. Dr. Clausen will succeed Dr. Joseph Savoie, who will become president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette later this spring.

Regents Toughen Admissions Criteria

Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, high school graduates will need to have successfully completed four units each of mathematics, science, English, and social studies to qualify for admission to a Louisiana public four-year university. The increased rigor in the Regents Core curriculum was approved by the Board of Regents at its February meeting in order to bring the Regents Core into alignment with the new "Core 4" curriculum recently adopted for high school graduates by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and to help ensure that freshman students enrolling at the state's universities are better equipped for college-level coursework.

"It has been shown time and time again that the best predictor of student success in college is the academic rigor of his or her high school preparation," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "It just makes good sense – both for our students and for our institutions – to do all we can to give entering freshmen the best chance possible of earning a degree. We do that in two ways: through our four-year university admission requirements, of which the Regents Core is a critical component, and through our community and technical college system, which provides an access point for students who can benefit from the environment of a two-year campus."

In addition to an increase in the total number of math and science credits required for public university admission,

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The next Board of Regents meeting will be held March 26-27



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James Klock
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - February 27-28, 2008

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed academic programs, proposed research unit, and progress reports on conditionally-approved programs/centers:

Proposed Academic Programs

Louisiana State University-Alexandria: B.S. in Criminal Justice.

Proposed Research Unit

University of Louisiana-Lafayette: Ernest J. Gaines Center.

Progress Reports on Conditionally-Approved Programs/Center

Baton Rouge Community College : A.S. in Nursing; Southern University-Baton Rouge: B.S. in Electronic Business; Northwestern State University: B.A. in Heritage Resources; Louisiana State University-Alexandria: B.S. in Psychology; Louisiana State University-Shreveport: Master of Health Administration.

Enrollment Recovery Continues

The Board of Regents received a report on the recently-updated Fall 2007 statewide enrollment figures. According to the report, Louisiana's public colleges and universities continue to recover from the enrollment hit suffered as a result of the 2005 hurricanes. Total enrollment across the state is up to 198,012 (including a near 6,000 student increase at two-year institutions) compared to 195,380 in 2006 and an estimated 177,230 immediately after the storms in 2005.

Notably, four of the New Orleans public institutions impacted by Katrina — Delgado Community College, Nunez Community College, Southern University – New Orleans, and the University of New Orleans — showed increases in first-time freshman enrollment last fall.

In addition, enrollment in developmental (or remedial) courses at four-year universities continues to decrease, down to 18.7% in 2007 from 20.5% in 2006. Developmental enrollment stood at 35% as recently as 2000.

Still another promising statistic shared with the Board was a statewide increase in “preparatory” students, up to 7,519, compared to 4,937 in 2006. Preparatory students are high school students who enroll in college credit courses before graduation.

For more information about these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our web site at www.regents.state.la.us

Admission Standards (from page 1)

the Regents Core will now require an additional unit of approved social science and the option of two units of newly-designed speech courses in place of the foreign language requirement currently required (in response to a consensus among college administrators that too many students come to college only marginally skilled in verbal expression). In addition, the new Core removes the requirement of one-half unit in “computer literacy,” since almost all students now develop computer skills as a normal consequence of high school instruction and personal computer/internet use.

The net increase in required credit is 1.5 units, from 17.5 to 19.0.